GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3191
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Protection of Lakes/Ponds
Mahto Dr. Banshilal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact any law to protect lakes/ponds in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the efforts made so far for protection of ponds and lakes in the country;
(d) whether the Government has issued directions to the State Governments to take concrete steps to protect the ponds and lakes and to construct boundary walls around such water bodies; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)& (b) The Central Government has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate various activities within the notified wetlands, including lakes and ponds. The provisions under the Wetlands Rules include certain prohibited activities as well as those activities which cannot be undertaken without prior approval of the concerned State Government /Union Territory, process for identification of wetlands under different categories, criteria for notifying the wetlands for regulation, etc.

(c) to (e) The Ministry is providing financial assistance to the States under the scheme of 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems' (NPCA) for holistic conservation and management of identified wetlands and lakes in the country for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and ecosystem through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach as well as a common regulatory framework. So far, an amount of Rs. 151.94 crores has been released to the States and other organizations for conservation and management of 82 identified wetlands in the country under the NPCA. Also, projects for conservation of 63 lakes in 14 States at a total cost of Rs. 1096.09 crores have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 687.588 crores has so far been released for the sanctioned projects.

In order to conserve wetlands and lakes in an integrated manner, all the States/ Union Territories have been advised for giving high priority for constitution of State wetland/ lake authorities, identification and notification of priority wetlands including delineation of their boundaries, development of integrated management plans, securing resources for implementation of management plans, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening research-management interface, etc.

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